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SUBJECT: THE CIA AND THE VATICAN: EXCERPTS FROM NEW BOOK

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1. SUMMARY: THIS TELEGRAM ANALYZES EXCERPTS ON "THE CIA AND THE VATICAN" APPEARING IN LEFTIST WEEKLY PANORAMA FROM THE BOOK "THE AMERICANS IN ITALY, 1942-49". THE PUBLISHED EXCERPTS ALLEGE THAT VATICAN AND US AGENTS COOPERATED IN ANTI-COMMUNIST AND ANTI-SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN IN 1948 ELECTIONS AND OQHRWARDS TO BREAK UP ITALY'S LABOR MOVEMENT, BRINGING ABOUT EXPULSION OF COMMUNISTS FROM GOI AND JOINTLY FINANCING CIVIC COMMITTEES AS PROPAGANDA ARM OF THE VATICAN. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH COVER TITLE "THE CIA AND THE VATICAN," THE LEFTIST WEEKLY PANORAMA IN ITS FEB 3 EDITION PUBLISHES WHAT IT CALLS EXCERPTS FROM AN "EXPLOSIVE CHAPTER" OF THE BOOK "THE AMERICANS IN ITALY, 1942-49" BY ROBERTO FAENZA AND MARCO FINI. THE BOOK BY THE TWO RADICAL LEFT AUTHORS IS SCHEDULED FOR PUBLICATION IN EARLY FEBRUARY BY THE PRO-COMMUNIST PUBLISHING HOUSE OF FELTRINELLI. ACCORDING TO PANORAMA, THE AUTHORS, AT A COST OF SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS AND THROUGH THEIR AMERICAN FRIENDS, PARTICULARLY THEIR AMERICAN CORREFVONDENT EDWARD BAKER, DESCRIBED AS THE EX-LEADER OF THE RADICAL LEFT AT WASHINGTON'S FEDERAL CITY COLLEGE, CAME INTO POSSESSION OF 50,000 AUTHENTIC DOCUMENTS OF THE AMERICAN SECRET SERVICES AND THE
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3. KEY POINTS OF EXCERPTS:

A. VATICAN SIGNALLED WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WITH AMERICAN SECRET AGENTS IN 1942 WHEN IT PROVIDED US SECRET PAPERS ON JAPANESE STRATEGIC POSITIONS OBTAINED BY APOSTILIC NUNCIO IN TOKYO. (NO DOCUMENT CITED. SIMPLY REPEATS ALLEGATION IN BOOK BY B. HARRIS SMITH, EX-OSS AGENT IN BOOK "THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE CIA".)

B. VATICAN, PARTICULARLY UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE MONTINI (NOW POPE PAUL) WAS B D 1946 EFFORT TO EXPEL LEFTISTS FROM GOI AND THAT WORKING IN AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN EMBASSY WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN BREAKING UP UNITY OF WORKER MOVEMENT IN JULY 1948.

C. IN 1947, USG AND GOI RIGHTISTS "PLEDGED THEMSELVES" TO SPREAD STATE OF ALARM THAT "COMMUNISTS AND NENNI SOCIALISTS WERE PREPARING REVOLUTION" AND THAT VATICAN WAS INSTRUMENT IN CONVINCING USG THAT DANGER OF INSURRECTION WAS REAL. AUTHORS QUOTE TELEX FROM US EMBASSY FRANKFURT TO SUBSTANTIATE POINT. QUOTE IS AS FOLLOWS: "THE OFFICE OF VICE DIRECTOR OF STRA-TEGIC SERVICES TELEGRARDED TODAY TO WAR DEPARTMENT INFORMATION OF RELATIVE INTEREST THAT TENDS TO CONFIRM THE INVASION OF ITALY THROUGH YUGOSLAVIA. DATE SET FEBRUARY-SPRING 1948. THE INFORMATION COMES FROM ITALIAN SECRET SERVICES AND THE VATI-CAN. CHASE." (DOC. 86500B, DEC 19, 1947) TO SUBSTANTIATE ALLEGATION IT ALSO QUOTES FROM EMBASSY ROME CABLE IN WHICH VATICAN OFFICIAL GIVES EMBASSY INFORMATION ON A COMMUNIST PLOT TO INITIATE DISTURBANCES THROUGH ASSASSINATION OF COM-MUNIST LEADER BY ASSASSINS MASQUERADING AS CARABINIERI (DOC. 8650, MARCH 2, 1947).

D. NSC MEETING MARCH 8, 1947, CONCLUDED THAT "FROM NOW TO THE ITALIAN ELECTIONS IN APRIL THE US MUST, AS AN IMMEDIATE PRI-ORITY, UNDERTAKE OTHER MANEUVERS TO IMPEDE COMMUNIST PARTI-CIPATION IN THE GOVERMENT AS THE RESULT OF AN ELECTORAL VIC-TORY." (NO DOCUMENT CITED FOR QUOTE.)

E. VATICAN IN 1948 ACTED AS INTERMEDIARY FOR "HIDDEN FIN-
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ANCING" OF PARTIES OPPOSED TO POPULAR FRONT. (CITES DOCU-MENTS 86500/5 OF MAY 17, 1948, AND APRIL 12, 1948, WHICH CON-CERN FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTMC BY "PRIVATE SECRETARY OF THE POPE'S NUNCIO IN CUBA" AND THE ARCHBISHOP OF DUBLIN, MCQUAID, AND INFORMATION PROVIDED TO AUTHORS BY DAVID LAUS, NATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES CENTER, MARCH 12, 1975, THAT CARDINAL SPELL-MAN PERSONALLY CONTRIBUTED $7,000.)

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F. OPERATION OF NATIONAL CIVIC COMMITTEES WAS MOST IMPORTANT JOINT PROJECT DURING 1948 ELECTION OF CIA AND VATICAN. QUOTES IN EXTENSO, "REPORT ON CIVIC COMMITTEES, THE POLITICAL ARM INSPIRED BY VATICAN AGAINST COMMUNISM IN ITALY," WHICH, INDENTIFIED AS DOC. 86500/5 OF MAY 17, 1948, IS DESCRIBED AS HAVING BEEN WRITTEN BY THE CIA FOR EMBASSY ROME. REPORT DESCRIBES ORGANIZATION AND ITS ACTIVITIES. IT STATES THAT "IDEA" OF COMMITTEES STEMS FROM VATICAN FEAR OF COMMUNIST VICTORY AND THAT ALTHOUGH POPE DID NOT ESTABLISH THEM, HE ENTHUSIASTICALLY EMBRACED IDEA AND SUGGESTS ITS LEADER, LUIGI GEDDA, OF CATHOLIC ACTION.

G. US-VATICAN ALLIANCE TO BREAK UP WORKER MOVEMENT: THE ALLIANCE PARTNERS CONSISTED OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT (UNDERSECRETARY ROBERT LOVETT AND POLICY PLANNER G.F. KENNAN), THE CIA (JIM ANGLETON AND EDWARD PAGE), AND THE VATICAN (MONTINI AND GEDDA). UO SUPPORT THESIS AUTHORS CITE TWO LETTERS OF OCT 11, 1948 AA FROM AMBASSADOR DUNN TO LOVETT AND PAGE TO KENNAN -- WHICH RECOMMEND THAT MARSHAL PLAN FUNDS FOR ITALY BE INCREASED BY 500,000 DOLLARS TO FINANCE ACTIVITIES OF CIVIC COMMITTEES.

H. TEXT OF PANORAMA ARTICLE BEING POUCHED TO EUR/WE.

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4. COMMENT:

A. WITHOUT ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS IT IS DIFFICULT TO DETERMINE WHETHER AUTHORS -- EVEN IN CASE WHERE "EVIDENCE" IS QUOTE IN EXTENSO -- TRANSCRIBED THEM CORRECTLY OR WHETHER EVIDENCE IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MISUSED.

B. WE CAN, HOWEVER, PERCEIVE PANORAMA'S MISCHIEVOUS PURPOSE IN SELECTING VATICAN-RELATED CHAPTER BOOK. PANORAMA HAS HAD RUNNING CONFRONTATION WITH VATICAN, ESPECIALLY SINCE 9CTOBER 1975, WHEN VATICAN PUBLICLY DENIED AND DENOUNCED PANORAMA'S "IRRESPONSIBLE" ALLEGATIONS THAT VATICAN THROUGH SECRET CONTACTS WAS PUTTING TOGETHER A "HOLY COMPROMISE" WITH PCI.

C. BOTH BOOK AND PANORAMA'S EXCERPTS, COMING TO PUBLIC ATTENTION DURING A PERIOD OF ACTIVE PRESS DEBATE ON CURRENT CIA INVOLVEMENT IN ITALIAN POLITICS, SEEK TO DISCREDIT VATICAN, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS AND OTHERS OF "LOCAL LEADERSHIP CLASS" WHO COOPERATED WITH AMERICANS.

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D. WITH RESPECT TO CURRENT CONTEXT, FINI IS QUOTED IN PAN-
ORAMA AS SAYING: "EVERY TIME THE DC HEGEMONY IS IN JEOPARDY,
AMERICAN INTERVENTION REAPPEARS PUNCTUALLY THROUGH CLANDES-
TINE CHANNELS, CRYPTODIPLOMACY AND DIPLOMACY OF DIRTY TRICKS."
FINI ALSO CLAIMS THAT AMERICAN "MODEL OF INTERFERENCE" WAS
FIRST DEVELOPED IN ITALY AND THEN EXPORTED TO REST OF WORLD --
FROM VIETNAM TO SANTO DOMINGO TO CHILE. STATING FURTHER THAT
SINCE AMERICAN INTERFERENCE WAS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH "COM-
PLICITY" OF LOCAL LEADERSHIP CLASS, FINI CALLS FOR CREATION
OF AN ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION.

E. ONLY VATICAN STATEMENT SO FAR WAS MADE BY ITS PRESS SPOKES-
MAN ALESSANDRINI, JAN 28, WHO BRANDED CLAIMS AS "POLITICAL
FICTION". VATICAN HISTORIAN HAS TOLD US IN PRIVATE THAT WHILE
THESIS WAS OVERZEALOUS AND ANTI-VATICAN, AS TO BE EXPECTED
FROM RADICAL CREDENTIALS OF AUTHORS AND PANORAMA, THERE IS
BOUND TO BE SOME EMBARRASSMENT FOR PRESENT POPE SHOULD HIGHLY
CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS PROVE TO BE AUTHENTIC. END LIMITED
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